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A mural reproducing Leonardo Da Vinci's painting 'Madonna Litta', currently at the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, is seen on a wall of the Agostino Gemelli University Polyclinic in Rome, Friday, June 9, 2023, where Pope Francis is recovering after undergoing abdominal surgery on Wednesday. The Vatican says Francis has had a second good night in the hospital recovering from surgery to remove intestinal scar tissue and repair a hernia in his abdominal wall. (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

by Associated Press

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Rome — June 9, 2023

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Pope Francis was "progressively improving" and sitting in an armchair working June 9, following surgery to remove intestinal scar tissue and repair a hernia in his abdominal wall, the Vatican said.

After a restful night, Francis had breakfast and read the newspapers from his armchair, spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a statement. He quoted doctors as saying Francis' condition was "progressively improving and the post-operative course is smooth."

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The 86-year-old pope was admitted to the Gemelli hospital on June 7 for his second major abdominal operation in two years, following a 2021 procedure to remove part of his colon. During the procedure, doctors removed adhesions, or internal scarring, on the intestine that had caused a partial blockage. They also repaired a hernia that had formed over a previous scar, placing a prosthetic mesh in the abdominal wall.

Francis is expected to remain at Gemelli for several days.